

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0657

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 4969

STATE FOR CU/CP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJ: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS - ST. PAUL ORCHESTRA

1. IN AN UNUSUAL DISPLAY OF PROFESSIONALISM, MUSICIANSHIP AND CHARM, THE ST. PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA TRIUMPHED OVER ADVERSITY OCTOBER 25 AND CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF 500 MUSIC-LOVERS CROWDED INTO PLOIESTI'S TINY PHILHARMONIC HALL FOR A CONCERT OF CLASSICAL MUSIC. TWO ENCORES, SEVERAL CURTAIN CALLS AND A GENUINELY WARM STANDING OVATION TESTIFIED TO THE IMPACT OF THE CONCERT, WHICH INCLUDED WORKS BY TELEMANN, STRAVINSKY, BACH AND A STIRRING PERFORMANCE OF HAYDN'S 6TH SYMPHONY.

2. AMBASSADOR USED OCCASION TO MAKE CALLS DURING DAY OF CONCERT ON PLOIESTI COUNTY AND CITY OFFICIALS, AND INVITED SEVERAL OF THESE TO BE HIS GUESTS AT EVENING'S PERFORMANCE. AMONG THOSE ATTENDING WERE TWO VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE PLOIESTI JUDET (COUNTY) COUNCIL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION.

3. CAPSTONE OF EVENING WAS RECEPTION HONORING ORCHESTRA GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING CONCERT. NEARLY ALL ROMANIAN OFFICIALS INVITED ATTENDED, INCLUDING JUDET FIRST SECRETARY

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AND PLOIESTI MAYOR, BOTH OF WHOM CAME DIRECTLY TO RECEPTION

FOLLOWING LATE EVENING PARTY MEETING. FOLK ORCHESTRA PROVIDED BY LOCAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION ENLIVENED PROCEEDINGS AND CONTRIBUTED TO UNCOMMONLY WARM AND INFORMAL GATHERING. AN INDICATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL IMPACT OF THE ORCHESTRA WAS THE INVITATION EXTENDED TO ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR DAVIES DURING RECEPTION BY THE DIRECTOR OF POLIESTI PHILHARMONIC TO RETURN TO CONDUCT RESPECTED PLOIESTI CHAMBER GROUP.

4. "ADVERSITY" INVOLVED FAILURE OF TWO TRUNKS CONTAINING ORCHESTRA'S HARPSICHORD, WARDROBE, AND SCORES, TO ARRIVE IN BUCHAREST FROM PRAGUE IN TIME FOR THE PLOIESTI CONCERT. THESE OBSTACLES, HOWEVER, OVERCOME WITH NO DEMONSTRABLE ILL EFFECTS: ABSENCE OF SCORES REQUIRED ONLY ONE PROGRAM CHANGE; ORCHESTRA PLAYED CONCERT IN "CIVVIES," WHICH ACTUALLY PROMOTED FEELING OF INFORMALITY AND WARMTH SO ESSENTIAL TO CONCERT'S SUCCESS; AND EMBASSY MANAGED, WITH SOME DIFFICULTY, TO BORROW HARPSICHORD FROM BUCHAREST PHILHARMONIC FOR USE IN CONCERT. FYI - CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THIS COOPERATION OF BUCHAREST PHILHARMONIC, ACCORDING TO BP'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WAS "EXCELLENT COLLABORATION" BETWEEN EMBASSY AND PHILHARMONIC DURING RECENT AMERICAN MUSIC WEEK AT AMERICAN LIBRARY. END FYI.

5. MISSING TRUNKS ARRIVED IN BUCHAREST OCTOBER 27.

6. DURING FREE DAY OCTOBER 26, ORCHESTRA TRAVELED TO MOUNTAIN RESORT TOWN OF SINAIA AS GUEST OF POLIESTI COUNCIL OF SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION. RETURNED TO BUCHAREST OCTOBER 27 FOR CONCERT IN RADIO-TELEVISION HALL, AND WILL GO TO BRASOV OCTOBER 28 FOR FINAL ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE. REPORT ON THESE LAST TWO CONCERTS FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.

7. DEPARTMENT IS TO BE CONGRATULATED ON SELECTION OF SUCH AN EXCELLENT GROUP OF MUSICIANS AND PEOPLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN CP PROGRAM.
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